Species Accounts and Range Maps:

Species accounts have been prepared for 70 taxa by 45 authors, each author an expert with their given taxon or suite of species. The 11 additional taxa included on the BSSC list by virtue of their status as being extirpated from California or as federally-listed species (although not State-listed) did not require species accounts. Species accounts focus on the taxon's general range and abundance, seasonal status in California, historical and recent range and abundance in California, ecological requirements, and threats; additionally, the authors make management, research and monitoring recommendations. Maps showing current range accompany each account. These maps were subjected to editing for consistency and accuracy by a team of two ornithologists and are currently being digitized through cooperative arrangement with the Wildlife Habitat Relationships program.

A draft of the document, database, and species accounts is currently undergoing peer review. The Department anticipates releasing the final document and associated materials in both print and electronic versions by the end of 2003.

The development of the BSSC has been a highly collaborative process between the Department, PRBO, WFO, as well as numerous ornithologists who have contributed their expertise and judgment to this important state-wide analysis. The final stage of the project will bring the work of this large group of experts to fruition.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions and Recommendations – 2002 Monitoring Report

The SCR Monitoring Team spent significant time in 2001-2002 conducting biological inventories of land recently purchased by the Department, much of it associated with the development and implementation of the State's NCCP Program. These lands have conserved important biological resources and have provided biological linkages to other conserved lands owned by other agencies and jurisdictions. All of these lands together make up the NCCP preserve systems in different parts of the region. The Department is committed to monitoring these vitally important lands consistent with the monitoring principles and requirements of the various NCCP plans in the region.

The SCR has been able to collaborate with expert contractors, agencies, and volunteers to supplement and assist in-house monitoring efforts to track the status of biological resources in the region. We anticipate continuing our partnerships into the future, not only for biological monitoring but also for research on key species, species groups and habitats, and for adaptive management purposes. The results of these efforts will allow us to refine monitoring protocols to be more effective, and to gain better insights into what should be monitored to assess the health of ecosystems and individual species. Some key collaborators have included: USGS, San Diego Sate University, Conservation Biology Institute, USFWS, Wildlife Research Institute, San Diego Tracking Team, The Nature Conservancy, and the Center for Natural Lands Management.

The SCR is involved in two education-related programs which will eventually produce volunteers to assist with biological monitoring activities. First, the SCR is cooperatively working with the San Diego Natural History Museum in the development of a Junior Naturalist program. This effort will train junior high students in field biology to lead interpretive activities for the museum. The training includes extensive field work at several Department reserves, including the Rancho Jamul ER. Secondly, the SCR is working with the Endangered Habitats League to support the establishment of the Earth Discovery Institute at the Crestridge Ecological Reserve. This program will also teach middle and high school students about the natural world, and train them to assist with future monitoring and management projects at Crestridge ER.

Continuing to demonstrate leadership in the realm of species monitoring, management and recovery, the SCR Monitoring Team is committed to providing species-level information on sensitive as well as non-sensitive species. Expanding knowledge at the species level will enable the Team to document trends, which may have recovery and management implications. It is also the goal of the Team to establish itself as a research-oriented entity by participating in and presenting original research at relevant symposia and conferences.